

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of July 27, 2005 is respectfully requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicated dependent claims 18-23 and 26-32 contained allowable subject matter. However, the Examiner rejected claims 16, 17, 24 and 25 as being unpatentable over the Shibata reference (US 6,193,132) in view of the Sato reference (US 4,929,893). In this regard, the Examiner indicated that claims “25 and 26” were rejected on page 3 of the Office Action, but also indicated that claim 26 contained allowable subject matter on page 6 of the Office Action. Thus, it is the Applicants’ understanding that the Examiner’s indication on page 3 of the Office Action contained an editorial error and should have read that claims “24 and 25” are rejected.

In view of the rejections (as understood by the Applicants as explained above), the claims have now been amended so as to accept the allowable subject matter. In particular, independent claim 16 has now been amended so as to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 18, and claim 18 has been cancelled. In addition, allowable dependent claims 20 and 23 have been amended so as to be placed in independent form including all of the subject matter of original base independent claim 16. Furthermore, independent claim 24 has now been amended so as to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 26, and claim 26 has been cancelled. In addition, allowable dependent claims 29 and 32 have now been amended so as to be placed in independent form including all of the subject matter of original base independent claim 24. In view of the Examiner’s indication of allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 16, 20, 23, 24, 29, and 32 are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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